IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A thin-film magnetic head having an MR head portion containing magnetoresistive elements, wherein a protective film having the composition represented by the following formula:

$CH_a O_b N_c F_d B_e P_f$

(where a = 0 - 0.7, b = 0 - 1, c = 0 - 1, d = 0 - 1, e = 0 - 1, and f = 0 - 1, in terms of atomic ratio), and having a thickness of 40 Å or less, is formed on at least the surface of said MR head portion facing a recording medium.

2. (Original) The magnetic head according to Claim 1, wherein the thickness of said protective film is 10 - 30 Å.

3. (Currently Amended) The magnetic head according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a = 0.05 - 0.7.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a thin-film magnetic head, ~~wherein~~ comprising conducting vapor deposition ~~is conducted~~ on at least ~~the~~ a surface of said thin-film magnetic head facing a recording medium until a film having a thickness of 40 Å or less is formed, by using material gas that is adjusted so as to form a diamond-like protective film having the composition represented by the following formula:

$CH_a O_b N_c F_d B_e P_f$

(where a = 0 - 0.7, b = 0 - 1, c = 0 - 1, d = 0 - 1, e = 0 - 1 and f = 0 - 1).

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein vapor-phase etching is conducted prior to the formation of the diamond-like protective film on the surface of the thin-film magnetic head.

6. The method according to Claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein vapor deposition is conducted by applyin a negative bias voltage to the thin-film magnetic head.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 4 ~~to~~ ~~6~~, wherein the thickness of said protective film is 10 - 30 Å.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 4 ~~to~~ ~~7~~, wherein a = 0.05 - 0.7.

9. (Original) A magnetic disk device having at least one slider equipped with the thin-film magnetic head according to Claim 1.

10. (New) The magnetic head according to Claim 2, wherein a = 0.05 - 0.7.